

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system using processor, memory, and data storage subsystems that mitigates viewing offensive message content, the computer-implemented system comprising:
 - a processor that executes the following computer executable components stored on a computer readable medium:
 - a message receiving computer-executable component that receives a message for delivery to a user input device;
 - a filtering computer-executable component that identifies offensive portions of the message, the message comprising one or more of text, images, sounds, videos, URLs, embedded content, attachments, or applets; and
 - a content blocking computer-executable component, triggered when a junk score of the message exceeds a first threshold level, which that blocks the offensive portions of the message by preventing the offensive portions thereof from being viewed or sensed from at least a preview pane that displays the message, and fully displays non-offensive portions of the message.
2. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 1, further comprising wherein the computer executable components further comprise:
 - a junk score calculation for the message; and

a classification computer-executable component that classifies the message as any one of a good state, a junk state, and a middle state based in part on the junk score; wherein the middle state indicates that the message is determined to be safe for an inbox, but not safe for viewing or previewing in at least the preview pane without blocking the offensive portions of the message.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 2, wherein the message is classified at least in the middle state when the junk score exceeds at least the first threshold level.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 2, further comprising an analysis computer-executable component that determines whether the junk score exceeds the [[a]] first threshold level.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 1, further comprising an unblocking computer-executable component that receives user input to unblock the offensive portions of the message in at least the preview pane.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 5, wherein the unblocking computer-executable component operates per message.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking computer-executable component operates per message or globally for substantially all messages.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 4, wherein the first threshold level is determined in part by user preferences.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking computer-executable component blocks the offensive portions of the message by utilizing at least one of the following:

~~blocked offensive portions of the message in at least the preview pane;~~

a blocked portion of a subject line of the message;

a blocked portion of a from line of the message;

a blurred portion of the subject line of the message;

a blurred portion of the from line of the message; or

a blurred portion of the message in at least the preview pane.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking computer-executable component replaces blocked offensive portions of the message with at least one of a text notice, a graphics notice, a video notice, or an audio notice; and wherein the text notice, the graphics notice, the video notice, and the audio notice warn users that potentially offensive content has been blocked from view.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 1 [[2]], further comprising a challenge-response computer-executable component, ~~the challenge-response component comprising:~~

a challenge activation computer-executable component, triggered when the junk score of the message exceeds a second threshold level;

a challenge message sent to a sender of the message;

a challenge puzzle or question completed by the sender of the message;

and

a response receiving computer-executable component for validation of the sender's response to the challenge puzzle or question and transfer of the message to the user's inbox upon validation.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold level is higher or lower than the first threshold level.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold level is determined at least in part by user preferences.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 12, wherein the message sent by the respective message sender is hidden from view in the user's inbox until the at least one challenge is correctly solved.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 12, wherein the offensive portions of the message sent by the respective message sender are blocked when the message is released to the user's inbox following a correctly solved challenge.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 1, further comprising a rating computer-executable component that rates messages as unscanned before the messages are subjected to the filtering computer-executable component.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 18, wherein an unscanned message is hidden from view and is not visible in the user's inbox while additional data about the unscanned message is collected or while the unscanned message is being filtered by the filtering computer-executable component.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 18, wherein unscanned messages are made visible in a user's inbox when the filtering computer-executable component is turned off.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method using processor, memory, and data storage subsystems that mitigates viewing offensive message content, comprising:

executing computer executable instructions stored on a computer readable medium of the [[a]] processor, the computer executable instructions comprising:
receiving a message into the [[a]] memory of the processor;
computing a junk score for the message;
determining offensive portions and non-offensive portions of the message, wherein the message comprises one or more of text, images, sounds, videos, URLs, embedded content, attachments or applets; [[and]]

enabling a user to preview the non-offensive portions of the message in at least a preview pane while blocking the offensive portions of the message from the user when the junk score exceeds a first threshold level ; and

issuing a challenge message to the sender of the message, triggered when the junk score exceeds a second threshold level, wherein the first threshold level differs from the second threshold level.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 22, further comprising classifying the message as unscanned before computing the junk score.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 24, further comprising updating the message from unscanned to some other rating based on, at least in part, its computed junk score.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 22, further comprising unblocking the blocked offensive portions of the message when explicit user input to unblock the blocked offensive portions is received.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 22, further comprising requiring entry of a password to open messages associated with blocked offensive portions.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 22, further comprising challenging a sender of the message before revealing any blocked offensive portions of the message, wherein challenges are sent to the sender at a rate determined by a frequency or number of messages sent to the user.

31-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system using processor, memory, and data storage subsystems to mitigate that mitigates viewing offensive message content, comprising:

means for receiving a message;

means for computing a junk score for the message;

means for determining offensive portions and non-offensive portions of the message, the message comprising one or more of text, images, sounds, videos, URLs, embedded content, attachments, or applets; [[and]]

means for blocking the offensive portions of the message associated with information deemed offensive to the user from being presented to the user, and displaying the non-offensive portions when the message is displayed in at least a preview pane, ~~based on~~ when the junk score exceeds a first threshold level; and

means for issuing a challenge message to the sender of the message when the junk score exceeds a second threshold level;

wherein instructions associated with one or more of the above means are executed by the [[a]] processor operatively coupled to the memory of the computer-implemented system.

35-44. (Canceled)